

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A cell culture insert (1) comprising a beaker-shaped insert wall (11) having a membrane filter bottom (9), a top, and projecting support arms (3, 4) that are distributed around the circumference of the top and having lateral spacers (7, 8) for a vertical and horizontal orientation in a well (2) with a liquid culture medium (N) in a cell culture plate, characterized in that

the spacers (7, 8) are distributed around the circumference of the cell culture insert (1) and have different lengths to the insert wall (11) including a shortest spacer (8), in such a way that one large feed window (5) and multiple smaller windows (5A) are created when the insert (1) is in rest position in the well (2); wherein the shortest spacer (8) has a knob shape.

2. (Previously Presented) A cell culture insert according to claim 1, characterized in that at least two of the spacers (7) are constructed as triangular spacing webs that are tapered towards the bottom.

3. (Original) A cell culture insert according to claim 1, characterized in that the shortest spacer (8) determines a minimum space between the insert wall (11) of the cell culture insert (1) and the interior wall (W) of the well (2), which prevents a capillary rising of the liquid culture medium (N).

4. (Currently Amended) A cell culture insert according to claim 1, characterized in that the space between the insert wall (11) of the cell culture insert (1) and an interior wall (W) of the well (2) is determined by ~~a downwardly tapered shape of the insert wall (11)~~the height of the knob shaped spacer (8).

5. (Original) A cell culture insert according to claim 1, characterized in that the cell culture insert (1) is held on three support arms (3, 4) eccentrically suspended in the well (2).

6. (Original) A cell culture insert according to claim 5, characterized in that the support arms (3, 4) are arranged adjoining above the spacers (7, 8) and offset around the circumference by 120 degrees in each case.

7. (Original) A cell culture insert according to claim 1, characterized in that the insert wall (11) incorporates at the top, at least between the two longer support arms (4), a wall cutout (12) having a lower edge (13) that is located at a distance above a normal fluid surface (10) of the liquid culture medium (N).

8. (Original) A cell culture insert according to claim 7, characterized in that the lower edge (13) of the wall cutout (12) extends to the support arms (3, 4) in an arc shape.

9. (Original) A cell culture insert according to claim 7, characterized in that the wall cutout has a depth (T) that is approximately 20% of an insert elevation (H) of the insert (1, 1A).

10. (Original) A cell culture insert according to claim 1, characterized in that its insert wall (11) has, at its end facing the membrane, a greater wall thickness (WU) than at the top.

11. (Previously Presented) A cell culture insert according to claim 10, characterized in that its insert wall (11) is tapered on the outside from the top toward the bottom with a shaping incline of approximately 1.5 degrees and that the insert wall (11) has on its inside an incline of 3.3 degrees.

12. (Original) A cell culture insert according to claim 11, characterized in that the membrane (9) has a diameter (D) larger than an inner well radius (R) of the surrounding well (2).

13. (Original) A cell culture insert according to claim 11, characterized in that the well radius (R) is 10 - 12 mm, the diameter (D) of the membrane (9) is 11 - 13 mm, the insert wall is 15 - 17 mm wide on the outside at the top and the spacers (7, 8) ensure an eccentricity of over 1.3 mm of the cell culture insert (1) relative to the well (2).

14. (Original) A cell culture insert according to claim 1, characterized in that it is composed of tinted material.

15. (Original) A cell culture insert according to claim 14, characterized in that it is composed of transparent material.

16. (Currently Amended) A cell culture insert (1) comprising a beaker-shaped insert wall (11) having a top, a membrane filter bottom (9) and projecting support arms(3,4) distributed around the circumference of the top of the insert, and having lateral spacers (7,8) for vertical and horizontal orientation of the cell culture insert (1) in a well (2) containing a liquid culture medium (N) in a cell culture plate, wherein lateral spacer (8) is knob shaped:

wherein at least one of said projecting support arms (3,4) is shorter than at least one other (4) of said projecting support arms (3,4), whereby the cell culture insert (1) in rest position is eccentrically suspended in the well (2) by the support arms (3,4) so that one large feed window (5) and a plurality of smaller windows (5A) are created.